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Measuring the historical city

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift *Measuring the Historical city. The reliability of historical land surveying methods and their use in virtual urban cartography* van Jakeline Benavides Q.- van Vliet.

1. The accuracy of early maps cannot always be assessed, sometimes not at all and at other times not for the complete area mapped. This is mostly due to differences between the early map and the sources used as reference and intermediates.
2. Early maps are unlikely to show the same accuracy throughout the map, and because of that, it is not sensible to indicate accuracy with one simple (global) value.
3. Comparing early maps is a very complex and delicate process that tends to be subjective and consequently not free from human error.
4. “The map may provide the most valuable testimony to its own reliability in many cases, indeed, on occasions, the only testimony” (Harley, 1968).
5. Even when a reliability assessment would be desirable, a reliability assessment in early maps is not always achievable due to innumerable constraints on the historical background of the map. However, an attempt to assess the reliability of a map will result in the better use of the map as a historical or spatial source.
6. The Independent (UK) stated not long ago, that men are ‘better at map reading’ while women are ‘better at remembering a conversation’ and not to forget that when ‘giving directions’. Often I was asked if working with maps gave me advantages in map reading. My reply, however, emphasized how it helped me to a better memory.
7. Moving from one continent to another with two kids and expecting another, although it is a wonderful experience in a country like Australia, it is certainly not advisable if one expects to keep working as one might have without the move.
8. Expatriate life in Perth for ‘stay-at-home mums’ is commonly seen as a voluntary (i.e. not paid) multi-job as a manager, coach, teacher, housekeeper, technician, counselor, accountant and mostly taxi driver of beautiful kids (often 3), far from family and in a new country. This is extremely rewarding, but mostly for the kids, since Australia provides such an intensely sport- and music-oriented and social lifestyle, but it is certainly not the best environment for writing a PhD thesis. It is possible! It just takes a bit longer than expected.